

Accessions

Denver, Colo.

Baptism:

Joan Davis,
Ann Johnson,
Lenora McComb (Mrs. Edwin), and
Vickie McComb were baptized at Boulder,
Colo., July 29, 1950, and given the right
hand of fellowship at Denver, August 5,
1950.

Letter:

C. Harmon Dickinson,
Ethel Dickinson (Mrs. C. H.), from Asha-
way, R. I., November 11, 1950.
Sherwood Van Horn, and
Vernette Van Horn (Mrs. Sherwood), from
Boulder, Colo., December 9, 1950.
C. H. D., Pastor.

Marriages

Reppert - Walton. — Howard Winston Reppert
and Evelyn Kelley Walton, both of Buck-
hannon, W. Va., were united in marriage
on February 11, 1951, at the home of the
bride's sister, Alberta Ireland, in Pullman,
W. Va. Rev. John Fitz Randolph of
Berea, W. Va., officiated. The Repperts
will be at home in Buckhannon.

Obituaries

Murphy. — Mrs. Annie Laura, was born April
4, 1869, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs.
Thomas Waycott of St. George, New
Brunswick, Canada.

She was married to Frederick Henry Mur-
phy, November 13, 1890, in Calais, Me. He
died in 1904.

Mrs. Murphy has lived in Michigan for the
past 47 years. As a loving and sacrificing
mother, she labored untiringly through the
years to provide for her seven children.

She joined the Battle Creek Seventh Day
Baptist Church May 22, 1915, and has been
a shut-in for several years. She was called to
rest February 2, 1951.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Laura
Etta Van Tyle and Mrs. Emily H. Connelly of
Battle Creek, Mich.; two sons, Frederick W.
Murphy of Battle Creek, Mich., and Albert H.
Murphy of California; four grandsons and three
great-grandchildren all of Battle Creek, Mich.

Funeral services were conducted by the pas-
tor, Rev. Alton L. Wheeler. A. L. W.

Bonnell. — Sarah Catherin Van Horn, daughter
of Jobe and Sarah V. Vansickle, was born
August 5, 1861, at Lost Creek, W. Va.,
and departed this life January 10, 1951,
at the home of her son, Ray Bonnell, in
Berea, W. Va.

She was united in marriage to Charles Berkley
Bonnell, November 2, 1885, who preceded her
in death by only eighteen days. To this union
were born five children: Retta Meeks of Park-
ersburg, W. Va.; Emery Curtis, Elizabeth, W.
Va.; Charles Wesley, Salem, W. Va.; and Ray
of Berea, W. Va. One son, Orville, preceded
her in death. There is a large group of grand-
children, great-grandchildren, nieces, and ne-
phews.

Farewell services were conducted January 12
by her pastor, Rev. John Fitz Randolph, at
Pine Grove, where interment was made.
J. F. R.

OUR SERVICEMEN Where They Are

(The Church should keep in touch with
those who have entered the armed serv-
ices and alternate services of our country.
As an aid in carrying out this privilege,
the Sabbath Recorder will publish from
time to time the names and most recent
addresses of our servicemen. Please keep
us informed. Correct information is most
essential.)

(The servicemen whose names appeared
in this column last week are members of
the Milton, Wis., Seventh Day Baptist
Church.)

Alfred, N. Y.

David Thorngate, Lt. j.g. MCR
Medical Company
21st Inf. Reg., 24th Div.
APO 24 c-o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

Rockville, R. I.

John L. Crandall, S2
LST 533, c-o FPO
New York, N. Y.

Fouke, Ark.

Sgt. Stephen J. Pierce AF18329994
41st Fighter Int. Sq.
APO 994, c-o Postmaster
San Francisco, Calif.

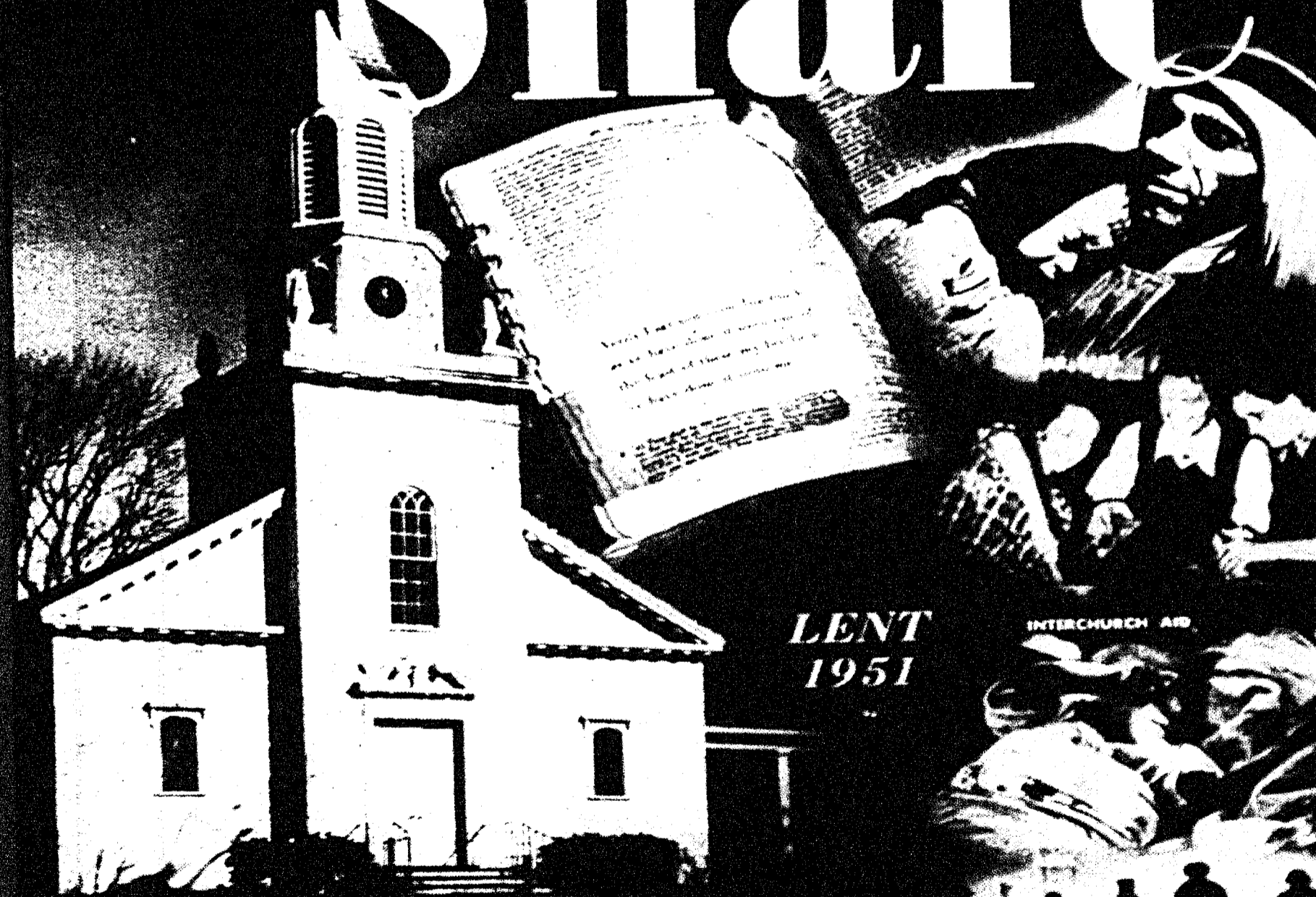
RECORDER WANT ADS

For sale, help wanted, and similar advertisements,
will be run in this column at 25¢ per line of seven
words for first insertion. Additional insertions at 20¢
per line. Cash should accompany each advertisement.

Companion Wanted — Position is open for an
elderly lady to care for semi-invalid at a
moderate fee. Write Mrs. Lottie Lang-
worthy, Box 376, Dodge Center, Minn. 3t

The Sabbath Recorder

Share



*In His name
and for their sake*



The Sabbath Recorder

First Issue June 13, 1844

A Magazine for Christian Enlightenment and Inspiration

HURLEY S. WARREN, D.D., Editor
L. H. NORTH, Manager of the Publishing House
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DAVID S. CLARKE Missions
WILLIAM L. BURDICK, D.D., Emeritus
(MRS.) FRANCES DAVIS Woman's Work
RONALD I. HARGIS Christian Education
HARLEY SUTTON, Emeritus
(MRS.) MIZPAH S. GREENE Children's Page

Our Policy

The Sabbath Recorder does not necessarily endorse signed articles. For information about Seventh Day Baptist polity and beliefs write the American Sabbath Tract Society Plainfield, New Jersey.

Terms of Subscription

Per Year.....\$3.00 Six months.....\$1.50
Student rate.....\$1.00 per college year

Retired Seventh Day Baptist ministers and their widows\$1.00 per year
Monthly Special Issues15 cents per copy (The first issue of each month)
Regular Issues10 cents per copy

Postage to Canada and foreign countries 50 cents per year additional. Subscriptions will be discontinued at date of expiration when so requested. All subscriptions will be discontinued one year after date to which payment is made unless expressly renewed.

Published weekly (except August when it is published biweekly) by the American Sabbath Tract Society and printed by The Recorder Press, publishing house for Seventh Day Baptists, Plainfield, N. J. Entered at the post office in Plainfield, N. J., as second class matter.

All communications, whether on business or for publication, should be addressed to the Sabbath Recorder, Plainfield, N. J.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., MARCH 5, 1951
(Special Issue)

Vol. 150, No. 10 Whole No. 5,432

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Front Cover Picture

"Share"

Courtesy: Church World Service, Inc.

The Church

By NATHAN E. BRANCH

To us the Scriptures clearly teach:

That the Church is the temple of the living God, peculiarly "his workmanship"; that its construction has been in progress throughout the gospel age — ever since Christ became the world's Redeemer and "the chief corner stone" of this temple, through which, when finished, God's blessings will come to all people, and they will find access to Him. 1 Corinthians 3: 16, 17; Ephesians 2: 20-22; Genesis 28: 14; Galatians 3: 29.

That meantime the chiseling, shaping, and polishing of consecrated believers in Christ's atonement for sin progresses, and when the last of these living stones, "elect and precious," shall have been made ready, the great Master Workman will bring all together in the first resurrection and the temple will be filled with His glory, and be the meeting place between God and men throughout the millennium. Revelation 15: 5-8.

That the basis of hope for the Church and the world lies in the fact that Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man, "a ransom for all," . . . "in due time," and He is "the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Hebrews 2: 9; John 1: 9; 1 Timothy 2: 5, 6.

That the hope of the Church is that she may be like her Lord, for she shall "see him as he is," be a partaker "of the divine nature," and share His glory as His joint-heir. 1 John 3: 2; John 17: 24; Romans 8: 17; 2 Peter 1: 4.

That the present mission of the Church is to perfect the saints for the future work of service; and to prepare them to be kings and priests in the next age. Ephesians 4: 12; Matthew 24: 14; Revelation 1: 6; 20: 6.

That the hope for the world lies in the blessings of knowledge and opportunity to be brought to all through Christ's millennial kingdom, the restitution of all that was lost in Adam, at the hands of their Redeemer and His glorified Church.

White Cloud, Mich.

The Church at Decision Tide

Indecision is fatal.

Someone has said that we must decide and decide and keep on deciding as long as we live.

One great trouble with some professed followers of Jesus Christ is that they thought that when they accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour, all deciding had been done. This is life's most important decision. Yet, any true Christian is constantly aware that many decisions must be made in the light of life's greatest decision.

Each day is different and offers a fresh opportunity for worship and work, for "withdrawal and return," for honoring God and serving our fellow men. Indecision will never make a day so worth while. Only decision will!

The type and character of the day will depend upon the quality of the decision made. If the considerations are of a purely selfish nature, the decisions will most likely be selfish. If the considerations are directed toward God and man, the decisions will be unselfish. As a result, each new day will become an adventure in sacrificial service.

Just as the Christian individual is constantly at decision tide, so the Christian group, the Church of Jesus Christ, is ever faced with the necessity of making decisions.

The Church is at decision tide today.

In every age and generation since it began, the Church of Jesus Christ has been faced with forces that would weaken and undermine its influence, overthrow its power, and defeat its mission, if they could. But thanks be to God, the Church has come forth from every clash and conflict, purer and stronger, when it has been true to the principles of its founder. Why? Because the Great Head of the Church is our victorious and risen Lord now and evermore. Did He not say that the powers of death shall not prevail against His Church?

With these words of assurance, we who are members of His Church should resolutely face the tests and trials of the pres-

ent hour. Whether or not the Church will emerge victorious from the present struggle against the forces of selfishness and sin depends upon us as members of it. If the Church comes through the current crisis, purer and stronger, it will be because Christ, the Head of the Church, has the pre-eminence in all things, among all powers, because He is all in all.

Christ has no place unless He has first place. It is up to His Church, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to see that He has first place.

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Colossians, pointed out that "He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent." Colossians 1: 18 (RSV).

Why? God planned and willed it so.

Whether or not Christ will have His rightful place in the lives of His followers today, in our lives, depends upon a twofold relationship — our right relationship with God and our right relationship with our fellow men. It is through Christ that God comes to us and we go to God. It is through Christ that we go to men. Some try to worship God and disregard men. Others try to deal with men and leave out God.

The Great Teacher summarized the Decalogue in love toward God and love toward men. It is through Him that this love becomes evident and operative.

If, during this season of soul-searching, the Christian individual and group accept afresh the glorious privilege of deciding issues, both major and minor, according to Christ's will, the powers of evil — sin, decay, and death — cannot prevail against His Church. Not only so, but also the Christian Church, as individuals and as a group, will experience new joy and greater effectiveness.

The Church is at decision tide today. So are we, its members! Which way will we take? The way of selfishness or the way of self-giving?

Which?

America Needs the Sabbath

By FRANKLIN A. LANGWORTHY

President, American Sabbath Tract Society, Plainfield, N. J.

It has been stated by many in referring to the rapid growth of America in this first half of the 20th century that we are now in a transitional era rather than a traditional one.

Through the years, my chosen lifework in industry has brought me into contact with hundreds of workers, that class of men who have contributed their part in changing our system from the "horse and buggy days" to a highly mechanized age. My interest in the character and personality of industrial workers has been greater, I believe, than in the machines which they have built.

I have a strong conviction that the great need in our American life is a more spiritual life, one which recognizes man's need of God, his need of a love and devotion which makes daily living according to His Word not grievous, but a joy and satisfaction because it would also include the keeping of the only Sabbath, the seventh day of the week, commanded in God's Word.

In 1914, Francis F. Miller, the founder of the Journal of American History, wrote these words of prophecy which have proved to be quite true in regard to the present status of America: "It is freely predicted, not only in the United States, but by the most farsighted men in Europe that within the present century America will economically, morally, and spiritually instill a new spirit into the world that will exert a stronger power to an infinitely greater degree than that by which Greece intellectually dominated the mind of the race, or the Roman Empire ever legally swayed the conduct of men, or by which the British Empire stamped its fiat on the world's trade.

"Within that brief time to come within the actual experience of many of the people now living, America will become not only the greatest and most powerful nation ever conceived and brought forth

*Used by permission.

on this earth by sheer moral and economic pressure, but it will give the marching order to the world, and that marching word will be humanity. War or peace to the world will be held eventually in the hollow of America's giant hand."

We do not question our unparalleled growth in all those things which make us one of the most powerful nations. We do, however, question whether our spiritual growth has kept pace with material benefits.

A review of America's major achievements is so well stated in the opening paragraphs of an article entitled, "Why Do Men Need God, Anyway?"* by Rev. Loyal F. Hurley, in the July-August, 1950, issue of The Chaplain, that I will quote his words.

"We have come to the end of the greatest half century in all history. More efforts have been made for human betterment, more millions spent for humanitarianism, more labor devoted toward literacy, more Bibles printed and distributed, and more missionary work accomplished than in any other half century of human achievement.

"It has been the greatest inventive period of all time. Some inventions begun earlier have been completed and perfected during these five decades. The electric light was invented in 1879, but became a real benefaction within the last 40 or 50 years. The automobile was invented before 1900, but changed from a "horseless carriage" to an automobile only after that date. The radio, the airplane, the submarine, television, the atom bomb, and many other devices of science and ingenuity have all come since 1900.

"Why does a modern man need God? He is no savage with a religion of fear and dread of evil spirits and demons. He is educated, emancipated, and self-sufficient. He fears nothing but being old-fashioned. . . . He has devised methods of rapid transportation that would amaze

our grandfathers." Communication is almost instantaneous.

"He has learned, or is learning, the conquest of disease until the life span in the more civilized areas of earth has been doubled within a comparatively few decades.

"He has split the atom, discovered the basic forces of nature, and bent matter to his will. . . ."

For years Christian men and women have asked if it is going to be possible to have an unselfish world in the midst of the selfishness of this world. Are we going to be able to use our scientific and mechanical technique wisely? More than possessions, more than power, does the human heart need God. ". . . Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Is history going to say that the people of America in the first part of the 20th century had the greatest opportunity of applying religion to the economic life and that it failed to live up to the opportunity?

The Church of Jesus Christ is the only organization that can save the situation. Church people must judge our era, and compare what it is with what it ought to be.

Something over a hundred years ago the French Government sent a noted marquis as its representative to the United States to study the conditions which were making it a growing world power. His report back to France stated that in traveling many days and weeks, sometimes on foot, many miles on horseback and by river boats, he made note of all its vast natural resources. In towns and cities he studied the business and commercial interests, but he said, "Not until I went into the Churches of America did I discover the real source of America's power."

Can the same be said of America today? There are many encouraging signs today in the midst of many discouraging ones. We would be pessimistic indeed if we did not recognize the fact that there is a spiritual force in the world far stronger

than any manifestation of material force. The Church of Christ is aggressively and persistently promoting its program of evangelism throughout our land, but religious leaders and Christian men and women everywhere are much concerned about the ungodly practices and the prevalence of crimes of all kinds throughout our nation, and the terrible consequences of cold wars which eventually lead to hot wars.

The Sundaykeeping world is finding itself more and more without the anchor of the true Sabbath, the only true and holy one given in God's Word. More and more, Sunday is being used for pleasures of all kinds. Multitudes use the big Sunday newspaper as a substitute for more worthwhile reading, especially neglecting the reading of the "good news" as given in the "Book of Life."

I do not need to review in detail the unmistakable evidences of sin and immorality throughout our national life. Through our various means of communication these facts are known to all.

Sunday does not hold the people as a sacred day for it has no authority, either from God or the teachings of His Son, Jesus Christ.

The greatest characters of history have been godly men and women. If America could add to her greatness in material things, the things of the Spirit, godliness, obedience to God's law according to His Word, how much greater would be her influence in the world. If the conscience of America could be awakened to the Sabbath with its sacredness and divine authority, it would help to bring people back to God, for that same conscience would help people to obey Him.

America needs the Sabbath.

(Note: This address was presented as a part of the program of the American Sabbath Tract Society on Wednesday afternoon of General Conference at Salem, W. Va., August 22-27, 1950.)

**ANNUAL MINISTERS'
CONFERENCE**

**SHILOH AND MARLBORO, N. J.
APRIL 2-5, 1951**

Seventh Day Baptist General Conference

ALFRED, N. Y., AUGUST 14-19, 1951

Reaching for God's Gifts

By REV. CARROLL L. HILL
President, Milton College, Milton, Wis.

(Preached on Sabbath eve, August 25, 1950,
at General Conference, Salem, W. Va.)

Scripture: Matthew 12: 1-13.

After the roller coaster ride to Salem to attend the General Conference, it is sobering to reflect, in an age and in a country of speed and power, how often and how many people never overcome the inertia of life enough to make a real effort religiously. There is an inertia in life that keeps many of us from attaining anything like our possibilities in personal religious living.

Let us turn, for a moment, from the twentieth century to the first, and recover an incident in which a man shifted into a new gear, religiously speaking. It is described, with a background, in the first 13 verses of Matthew 12. Let me say that there is one verse particularly, that seems quite incidental here, which I would like to remove from its setting: "Then saith he to the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it forth; and it was restored whole, like as the other."

The implication is that the man had a part to play here, as well as Jesus. We read that His enemies tried to trap Jesus, because of the good things He did on the Sabbath. It has loomed large in our minds until we have not said much about the fellow who spent the day seeking healing, and he needed it. He also needed to make a real effort, religiously, to overcome the inertia of his life. Jesus said unto him, "Stretch forth thine hand."

In this incident is the key to a great reality — the reality of the part man has to play in receiving the blessings God has for him. I think God does not shower His blessings of personal peace and worth promiscuously. Of course the rain falls on all, but rain restores the ground. The real blessings of religious worth are not thrust upon us whether we want them or not; they seem to come on the condition of the outstretched hand of human en-

deavor or search. God must be possessed of boundless patience, waiting for man to stretch forth his hand. Surely we have a part to play in our redemption, as well as God.

Something more than thirty years ago a boy was born in Kansas, and while he was still a boy, the schoolhouse that he attended burned, and he was terribly hurt. At first the doctor said, "He will never walk again." Later the doctor said, "He will never walk unless there is a miracle." But the boy struggled along, first on crutches and then with a cane. The time came that he followed a plow across the field, leaning on the handles. Then he began to run, a little at a time, to test the strength of his legs. For the boy who was never to walk again, there opened a highway, yes a race track. That boy was Glen Cunningham, and at Dartmouth several years ago he ran the fastest clocked mile on record up to that time. For a young man this is not only a physical, but a spiritual conquest. It is almost as though one heard a voice saying to him, "Stretch forth thine hand." A century or so ago a young man along the water front in Baltimore happened one evening to pass a small Church building where some meetings were in progress. Something compelled him to enter. During the course of the evening something happened to him that changed his life. It may be that a complex was removed. Perhaps an inhibition was released. It is certain that he was converted. At any rate, he became a traveling preacher. His son was a midwestern circuit rider, and the grandson a great preacher, editor, writer, and a teacher of preachers, under whose teaching it was my good fortune to sit for two years.

That evening in that little Baltimore Church, the man consciously reached out his hand, as it were, that it might be restored whole. The effort on his part started a train of events that has been remarkable,

to say the least. How many similarly interesting stories might be told, we do not know.

The command of Jesus to that crippled man, spoken so long ago, is valid at any time, not necessarily for setting a broken finger, but as a symbol of a part we must play in our religious experiences, and for that matter, in almost any successful venture. We are speaking of a realm of personality, where results are in direct proportion to effort and direction.

It must be discouraging for a doctor to deal with a patient who is unwilling to make any effort in his own behalf. It may be that he would like to be able to say, as did Jesus, "Wouldst thou be made whole? "Stretch forth thine hand."

An incident in the life of Sidney Lanier illustrates the value of effort. His health was far gone and he was advised to seek a more favorable climate. As day after day he rested and absorbed the rays of sunlight, his health improved. On the knees of an oak tree at the edge of the Marshes of Glynn he wrote these lines:

As the marsh-hen secretly builds on the watery
sod,
Behold I will build me a nest on the greatness
of God:
I will fly in the greatness of God as the marsh-
hen flies
In the freedom that fills all space 'twixt the
marsh and the skies:
By so many roots as the marsh-grass sends in
the sod
I will heartily lay me a-hold on the greatness
of God:
Oh, like to the greatness of God is the great-
ness within
The range of the marshes, the liberal marshes
of Glynn.

— Quotable Poems, Clark-Gillespie. Willett,
Clark, and Colby, publishers. Used by per-
mission.

Again, it is as though one said to him,
"Stretch forth thine hand."

Next month (September), there will come into the schoolrooms and upon the campuses of the nation a multitude of students. They will come from all types of homes and environments. They will vary in outlook and ambition. There will be

some who will enter eagerly into their studies.

One of the great discouragements in teaching lies in the student who will not make the necessary mental effort to learn. There are large numbers, the country over, who appear on the campus believing that in some mysterious way their being there will work a miracle, and they will become educated, endowed with social grace and spiritual wisdom. Many means are employed to persuade and lead the student to overcome the inertia of his life and get busy. Someone must impress him with the idea, "Stretch forth thine hand."

The stretched-forth hand has a large place in Church history. In the letter to the Romans the author declares that he wants to impart to them a spiritual gift and "be encouraged by meeting you." (Moffatt.)

Some of men's greatest satisfactions spring from friendship baptized. After the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension experiences, the disciples, as many others, went back to their familiar haunts and surroundings. Their world was upset and their Master gone. The old chapter was ended. What to do? In familiar surroundings, in an upper room, they had a prayer meeting. They didn't know it, but, like us, they were in a historical trough between two waves, one receding and the other advancing. Their world was in a state of revolution and change. They did the habitual, the sensible thing, they held a prayer meeting.

We have made a lot of bad jokes about prayer meetings. Some aren't very lively. I have attended some and conducted some. It is a real comment on the lives of the disciples, though, that in a time of need they went back to familiar surroundings and held a prayer meeting. They were a group in the habit of being together. They understood each other. They depended upon each other.

A few years ago some young men were helping to address the envelopes of a letter to the members of the Church. One asked, "What name appears most often on our Church roll?" It happened to be Davis. We found that if we subtracted four family names from the roll, the

number would have been sadly depleted. That is, if we had removed their names and those of their families and relatives.

Most of our Churches are family Churches. I do not know what names appear most often in your Church, but let us take the initials B, C, and D. Suppose all the Babcocks, Baileys, Bonds, Crandalls, Cottrells, Davises, and others with those initials were suddenly gone. The point is that our Churches are made up of people who are naturally bound together, bound in a bundle of life.

Visiting in Chicago one day, it was my privilege to talk with a minister of a Church made up of the union of two congregations. He had been there seven years and the Church was about to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the union. Yet, not over half of the two uniting congregations was left after ten years. The members had gone their ways. No family ties bound them. People come and go. And yet, in the Church of the family, how easily one may say, "Stretch forth thine hand."

There are great programs afoot. There are youth movements, adult programs, councils, conferences, and associations. In

some nations, such movements have been the tool of dictators. Some have been national, and some international. None of them can serve adequately or lead effectively unless constantly there is a voice saying to the nations of the people, "Stretch forth thine hand." We have sometimes descended to less noble phraseology and said that the Lord helps those who help themselves, but there is a central fact — to achieve something personally or collectively, in terms of real worth, one must overcome the inertia of life, the being at a standstill, and must want to overcome it enough to make the effort.

So we turn back to Matthew 12, and see those who were gathered about Jesus. They were looking for something to pick at, to find fault with. They missed the central idea entirely. In their midst was a tragedy, a man with a withered hand. He said to the man with the withered hand, "Wouldst thou be made whole? 'Stretch forth thine hand.'" And the hand "was restored whole, like as the other."

The same command and promise ring today across history and in the lives of men and nations.

False Physicians

By REV. MELVIN G. NIDA

Pastor, Seventh Day Baptist Church, Richburg, N. Y.

(The first of a series of four Bible studies from the Book of Hosea as presented before General Conference, Salem, W. Va., August 22-25, 1950.)

"Hear, O priests and princes of Israel! your condemnation. You, who should be the shepherds of this people, for the sake of your own profit have lured them on to their ruin by encouraging them in the lewd practices which are observed in connection with such sanctuaries as Mizpah and Tabor. The gross crime of this nation has made return to Jehovah impossible, for they are but the expression of the low state of morality which prevails, and which indicates that the people possess no real knowledge of Jehovah's character and demands. Israel and Judah both shall fall under their load of guilt. Vainly do

they outwardly worship him with their ceremonial offerings, while their deeds reveal only treachery.

"Any month the foreign invader may swoop down upon you. Already, in imagination, I can hear the dread alarm announcing his approach. From the heights let the trumpet blast resound, calling the people to the defense of their homes. Vain, however, shall be their efforts, for the overthrow of the northern kingdom is determined. Jehovah will execute dire vengeance upon these despicable cheats, who rule over this wilful and foolish nation, oppressing their subjects and perverting judgment. Indeed, he has already begun to destroy from within both the kingdoms of the north and of the south. The

shortsighted politicians of Israel, recognizing the internal weakness of their state, have sent their ambassadors to the land of the Tigris in the wild hope of gaining health and healing from that beast of prey, the Assyrian king. Bitterly shall they be disappointed. Jehovah himself will pitilessly complete the judgment upon Israel and Judah which he has begun, and no human power can hinder him." — Hosea 5: 1-14, freely rendered in paraphrase. From the Messages of the Earlier Prophets by Sanders and Kent, copyright 1898 by John D. Wattles & Co., published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, pp. 60, 61. Used by permission.

The Setting for Hosea's Life

The story of Hosea is the pathetic story of the prophet who learned an eternal lesson from that which is too often the tragic occurrence of modern life — infidelity. It is a story we might well entitle "A Tragedy of a Parsonage," for the principal character is a preacher and his wayward wife.¹ The lesson he learned and wrote down for us, as he felt the searing pain of loneliness engulf him as his home crashed in the ruins of unfaithfulness about his helpless soul, is recorded in the Book of Hosea.

A decade after Amos delivered his sermons of warning at Bethel, Hosea began preaching in Samaria. There is little doubt but that he was a northerner, a citizen of Israel, while Amos was a southerner from Judah.² But these two men saw eye to eye in political matters, both preaching against the iniquity that characterized Israel.

On the death of Solomon 175 years previous to the time of Hosea, the kingdom that had been built around intrigue and alliances split. A succession of kings, some good, more bad, reigned over their respective sections of Judah to the south and Israel to the north of Jerusalem until both sections finally fell before the invaders. But it was Hosea's country that was to fall first.

A Prophet's Burden

It was the country he loved that Hosea saw headed toward destruction and slav-

ery — the destruction that was made inevitable by the sin and corruption that characterized the political leaders. Love for his people, his land, and his God was a passion that burst forth on Hosea's lips — a passion of warnings and pleadings for true repentance.

When Hosea entered upon his prophetic career a little before 740 B.C., his country Israel was held together by the strong hand of Jeroboam II. Already, however, the dire prophecies of Amos were becoming evident and as Jeroboam's son came to the throne to be murdered by Menahem, the political wall of the nation began not only to crumble but to fall apart. It was the people who first began to feel the squeeze by Assyria. Wrung from their already burdened livelihood was a heavy tribute that the treacherous Menahem used to purchase from Assyria a few more years of perilous reign. This was the beginning of the end, for Menahem had lost the respect of Assyria by the tribute and earned the contempt of his own people by his acts of murder and oppression. The political system became openly corrupt and law and order relaxed, affecting the social and moral life of the nation.³

Israel's Decadence Invites Destruction

It was against this backdrop of decadence that Hosea pleaded with what audience he could glean from the fascinating path of waywardness. Literally like brands from the burning fire he must have snatched his followers, for the flames of lust and dishonor were burning high.

Immorality was openly practiced with the sanction of the religious leaders. The utterly corrupt practices of the Canaanitish religion were accepted and the worship of Jehovah adapted to fit them. What had been a shell of ceremonialism was easily filled with the lewdness of heathenism.

This was Hosea's country, the land he loved, that he must stand by and watch her irresistible flight to destruction. Hosea saw that she was like a moth that is drawn to the flames of an open fire. Circling ever closer and closer, he knew that soon the fire would catch and his nation would be no more. But one thing he could do, and we can almost hear his impassioned

soul as he first warns of destruction, then pleads, and weeps over the disregard and scorn that must have been hurled upon him. The anguish that gripped his heart because of his people was akin to the anguish of knowing the desertion of his wife.

Destruction for Prophet and Nation

Before the final blow that ended Israel's political life as a nation, Hosea's voice was apparently cut off by martyrdom. There are no allusions to the events of the final overthrow in the book and we can pretty closely date the work of Hosea by his references to Gilead and the Sea of Galilee still being parts of the Northern Kingdom. In 734 B.C. these portions of the country were conquered and annexed to Assyria. Hosea probably preached between 740-734 B.C.¹ In 721 the city of Samaria, in which Hosea had preached, fell to the Assyrians after a siege of three years. According to the words of the Assyrian king, he carried away 27,290 Israelites and settled them in the land of the Assyrians.² They were destined never to return and the nation perished. Thus to fulfillment came the prophecies of Hosea, but his impassioned pleadings still echo down the ages.

False Physicians With Useless "Cures"

As Hosea stood and watched the mad attempts of the politicians to find some security for the decaying foundations of the nation, he characterized the attempts as those of a sick man seeking healing from a false physician. Mistaken policies had led Israel to seek an ally where there was only an enemy. Instead of turning to the One who could give healing and health — the Lord — they turned to the arm of man.

Israel's suicidal folly in paying tribute to Assyria to try to bolster the nation becomes an apt illustration of man's universal madness in seeking the healing of his misery in the repetition of the very acts that caused his soul's sickness. Thus, often, a man who is conscious that all is not well spiritually will try to conceal the longing of his soul in the very thing that caused his spiritual illness. Instead of turning to the Lord he will go deeper into his sin.

Consider the man who drinks and hides himself constantly in more drink until his life is useless.

We as Christians must be careful, too, lest we attempt the same tactics for the healing of spiritual ills that may beset us.

"Cures" or Healing

The place with which we are most unfamiliar is the depths of our heart. "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" wailed a prophet. But there are always indications of our spiritual illness that are manifest to the observing mind just as there are always symptoms of physical sickness that are evident to the observing eye.

There are three courses that are usually followed by those who become conscious that all is not well with them.

You have all observed the man who knew that all was not well but who went about his old way as usual. Clear indications were not heeded, and he went about his work trying to forget the stabs of pain that were indications that something was wrong. He reasoned with himself that everything was all right, and that these pains were just something that would pass shortly, and all would be well. But the time came when his strength failed and, finally, seeking help, it was revealed that the pain that he had first felt long ago was a cancer that had advanced too far to be treated. Too late it was for real healing.

Then there is the man who upon the first indication of sickness begins to try everything for cure. He tries this medicine for a while and then something else. He tells the doctor that it is his appendix and he must have an operation immediately. When he gets up out of bed and the pain is still there, then it must be gallstones and the doctor must perform another operation or he will surely die. It is always something else that is wrong and must be removed or there is some new medicine he must try, until it is a miracle that he exists at all.

But the man who finds healing is the one who acts upon the first clear symptoms and goes to a true physician for help. It may be necessary to have a major opera-

tion but it is carefully considered and wisely done. Healing comes quickly because the whole emotional tenor is not upset and there is faith and trust throughout.

Spiritual Healing

Three ways are open to us as Seventh Day Baptists as we have become aware that all is not well with us. We may like the proverbial ostrich stick our heads in the sand and go on saying that nothing is wrong, or we may foolishly jump on our horse and ride madly off in all directions at once. We may remove this and have something else taken out; we may try some new medicine and if there is a new pain then have our medicine changed, or call a new doctor; but may we follow the right course.

The Bible - A Light and Guide

By REV. C. REX BURDICK

Pastor, Marlboro, N. J., Seventh Day Baptist Church

(Preached in the Marlboro Church,
December 9, 1950.)

One Monarch to obey,

One Creed to own:

That Monarch, God:

That Creed, His Word alone.

—Author unknown.

God is our monarch, and His Word is our creed, a light and a guide to a world in darkness. In the story of the mutiny of the BOUNTY one may read of the adventures of a group of mutineers who sank their ship and landed on lonely Pitcairn Island. In the group were nine white sailors and seventeen natives; six men, ten women, and a girl of fifteen. One of the sailors discovered a means of distilling alcohol, and the island colony was debauched with drunkenness and vice. After a while only one of the white sailors survived, surrounded by his native wives and children. This sailor, Alexander Smith, found among the things taken from the BOUNTY, a Bible. This he began to read and to teach to those with whom he was associated, with the result that his life and that of the colony were changed.

May we thoughtfully take heed of the symptoms, go to the One who can help, and act carefully and wisely according to His prescription. It may be necessary to operate, but if it is carefully done that may be the means of helping us. May we not have to stand by and see our beloved denomination seek false physicians and useless cures.

¹ And the Prophets, Clovis G. Chappell, Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, New York, publishers, c. 1946, p. 76. Used by permission.

² The Messages of the Earlier Prophets, Sanders & Kent, p. 47, Charles Scribner's Sons, publishers. Used by permission.

³ Ibid, p. 48.

⁴ Ibid, pp. 49, 50.

⁵ The Westminster Historical Atlas to the Bible, Wright and Filson, The Westminster Press, publishers, Philadelphia, c. 1945, p. 49. Used by permission.

In 1808 the United States ship TOPAZ visited the island and found a thriving community, without whisky, without a jail, without crime, and without an insane asylum. The Bible had changed the life of that island community. The Bible is a light and a guide. Wherever its pages are read, minds are illumined and lives are changed. "The entrance of thy words giveth light," said the psalmist.

These are dark days in which we live, but in that respect they are not different from the days of former generations. Every generation has its days of darkness. We have Korea and Pearl Harbor. Our predecessors had the first World War, the Spanish American War, the Civil War, the Mexican War, the great Revolution, the Dark Ages, and so on back through the days of the Maccabees when Christianity was almost stamped out. The course of darkness could be thus traced all the way back to the fall of man which is recorded in the third chapter of Genesis. Since man turned his back on the things of the spirit and followed the things of the flesh, human history has been nought but a course of darkness. Yet

through the blackness of the awful night of sin runs the certain, though sometimes faint, glimmer of the Word of God. When men catch the vision of God's revelation, they catch something which not even the powers of darkness are able to shake. When men build their lives upon the Word of God, they build a fortress which will stand for time and eternity. These are dark days, but we have the light of the Bible. The Bible is a light and a guide. The psalmist said, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

The Bible Is a Profitable Book

In 2 Timothy 3: 16 we read that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The Bible is not only an inspired book; it is also practical, worth while, and wholly profitable. It is not a book of impractical idealism, but a book which is useful in every phase of our lives as Christians.

The Bible is profitable for doctrine. One of the things that has contributed largely to the darkness of our present day is the fact that men have been trying with all of their might to substitute human doctrine for the doctrine of the Bible. For ages the philosopher has tried to reason God, to make God an object of the human reason. But God cannot be so reasoned. He is wholly different from that which we as finite humans can arrive at through our natural processes of reasoning. The God of the Bible is not a natural and reasonable (humanly speaking) being. He is supernatural and above and beyond our ability to reason.

The scientist has tried to put God into a test tube. But God cannot be analyzed in the laboratory. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." A spirit cannot be submitted to chemical analysis. To try to do so is to deny the spiritual nature of God, and to plunge unbelieving men into an abyss of spiritual darkness.

Even many theologians in the name of Christianity have been guilty of adding to the darkness of the world by outrightly denying many of the doctrines of the

Word of God, and substituting many others which are purely of human origin. But man cannot improve upon that which has been revealed in God's most holy Word. To attempt to do so is virtually to profess to be wiser than the author of the sacred Scriptures.

The Bible is profitable for doctrine because it tells us clearly what is wrong with man, sin; and what man needs to make him right with God, a Saviour; and that any man may appropriate the Saviour, Jesus Christ, through faith in Him, the Son of God. The doctrine of the Bible is profitable, too, because it illumines the fallacies of human doctrine.

The Bible is profitable for reproof. An all-wise God cannot but see the sinfulness of people. - God is not pleased when we sin. Sometimes I wonder, when I see the unbelief of the world, and the immorality even of Christians, why God does not send some cataclysmic event which will destroy all wickedness off the face of the earth. Then I realize that I, too, am trying to make God a being subject to human reasoning. But God is infinite in His love and mercy. His purpose at the present is not to destroy all wickedness, but to make the sinner conformable to the image of Christ. So the Bible is a book of reproof. God recognizes our sin, and in the Bible takes us to task for it. There are many passages of warning and rebuke in the Word of God. When a man reads the Bible, he comes face to face with the awful nature of sin, and he learns God's estimate of it.

Yet, God does not content Himself with rebuke. He demands a change. The Bible is profitable for correction. The Bible demands correction and, recognizing man's own inability to make the necessary corrections in his life, it directs him to the Holy Spirit who gives grace sufficient for every need. Those of us who have fallen into sin sometime during our lives (and who hasn't?) know how utterly impossible it is for us in our own strength to lift ourselves, and to gain for ourselves even a measure of holy living. The Bible reveals to us that power for correction comes not from within the self, though it is necessary to have a determination to do right, but from without, from God

who is unlimited in His power and who has made that power available to us His creatures through the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is profitable for instruction in righteousness. Long passages of Scripture are given to simple Christian teaching. Jesus was essentially a teacher in His earthly ministry. The Sermon on the Mount, the parables, and even the miracles, are basically means of teaching. The Bible tells us how to come to Christ, pleads with us to accept Him as our Saviour, and teaches us how to live for Him. The Bible is the great textbook for Christian living. It gives all the spiritual instruction necessary for men of any age. The Bible is indeed a profitable book for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

The Bible Is a Life-Preparing Book

As we have before noted, the Bible is a light-giving book. Light is one of the essentials for every phase of life. Both animals and plants need light for their very existence. Men need light to pursue the activities of their lives. Certainly no respectable vocation can be carried on without light. Imagine the result if a carpenter should try to build a house without light by which to work, or if a farmer should try to cultivate his crop at midnight without any light. The very idea is absurd. Christianity is a vocation. We are called upon to spend our lives working at it, yet all too often we attempt to carry on our spiritual lives without the preparation of adequate Bible study. We need the light of the Bible if we will serve the Lord.

The Bible develops character. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect." Perfection is God's standard for men. Probably all of us have been asked, "Why does God demand perfection when He knows that humans cannot attain perfection?" Perhaps it has puzzled us, too. God's standard of perfection has two fundamental purposes. First, it brings us face to face with our own inability. God knows that we cannot live a Christian

life apart from Christ. He wants us to know it. If a low standard were set for us, and we should be capable of achieving it, we would not know our need for a Saviour. God's standard of perfection is one means of directing us to Christ.

Man cannot attain to perfection, but as a Christian he must strive. Another reason for a standard of perfection is that man may ever have a goal toward which to reach. Men seldom progress beyond a goal. When the goal is reached, striving ceases. But as Christians we must never cease striving. God's standard of perfection is something like "shooting for the stars" or "reaching for the moon." It is a goal, a high goal, toward which the Christian will ever move.

Exercise and activity bring strength. Christian activity brings spiritual strength and character develops. As men seek to reach God's standard, their character will be developed and the world will be enriched.

The Bible equips for service. A man is useless without his tools. The woodsman without his ax, the farmer without his plow, the chemist without his test tube, all are equally useless in their respective tasks. The Christian without the Bible is equally useless in the task of the kingdom of Christ. A good workman must have the proper equipment. A good Christian will equip himself from the Word of God. It is not enough to carry the Bible in the hand to the functions of the Church, or to read it casually as the occasion arises. A thorough, working knowledge of the Bible is an absolute essential for the earnest Christian. The Bible, the sword of the Spirit, is the Christian's weapon in his spiritual warfare. The Bible itself is one item of equipment and within its pages the seeker is introduced to other necessary items.

The Bible provides men with a knowledge of men. In order to work for Christ, we need to know the nature of men and their needs. The Bible gives us this equipment. The Bible introduces us to Christ as the solution for the needs of men. The Bible equips us with page after page of potent argument, illustration, and reasoning to be used in soul winning. The Bible introduces us to, and gives us the

promise of, the Holy Spirit who enables us to live victoriously, and to be of service to God, to our fellow men, and to our country. The Bible equips for service. It is profitable "that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Time and Eternity

By EDITH BABCOCK DAVIS

Time! Our time on earth is short; it is precious; it is far too valuable to be wasted in such earthly pastimes as playing cards, "movie" going, or dancing. Are they sinful? If you, yourself, are in doubt, quit arguing with God; He is always right.

What then? There is not time enough for me to testify of my love for my Saviour. For He gave His life to set me free from Satan's snare and eternal destruction. ". . . Every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14: 11, 12. Does the consecrated son of God fear that accounting to God? No. With rejoicing he can say, "I am washed in the blood of the Lamb. My sins shall be remembered against me no more.

For some time now, God has been leading me in a definite service. Lone Sabbathkeeping is not a burden to bear; for we have Christ, and Him we share. Each Wednesday after school Milton brings home his fourth grade boy friends. While we are waiting for all to arrive, we work individually on memory work. Each child has a chart and with the first five verses he memorizes, he receives a Scripture verse pencil; memorizing the next ten verses awards him a mirror with a picture of Christ on the back. Do they try? Most juniors thrive on competition, or awards. Yes, last year one boy learned 32 verses and knew where each was found. He received a box of Scripture note stationery to give to his mother for Mother's Day. And he had earned it by himself!

When all have arrived we have visualized flannelgraph Bible stories, and prayer. Sometimes it is various types of object

The Bible is a light and a guide; a profitable book, a life-preparing book. It is God's revelation to us. It has illumined a world in darkness, but its specific value is found only as we make it a part of ourselves by careful study and constant application.

lessons, a Scripture quiz in the form of a spelling bee. Usually we play a game, often applying it in a Biblical way. For instance, in spin the bottle, we give "It" some activity such as hunting a Bible verse, finding what song is on page 50 in the hymnal, dramatizing what David did to Goliath; or on the calendar to show how long ago Jesus lived. This is followed by some small treat such as cookies. Once a month we have a special event such as a picnic supper, wiener roast, or a hike.

Many of these ten-year-old boys have never heard of Moses in the basket, or of Joseph and his colorful coat. And we call this Christian America! The parents are happy to have their children taught Bible, but don't want to take time or get up early enough to send them to Church. One little boy this year has said twice, very pathetically, "I don't go to Church because I don't know where to go." Oh, that parents would as conscientiously feed the immortal soul, as they do the physical, temporal body! Our government makes child neglect punishable under the law. Do we think God has no laws concerning spiritual neglect? Jesus said, ". . . Whoso shall offend one of these little ones, . . . it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matthew 18: 6. "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word . . . of God." Matthew 4: 4.

For material, I have been using much from Scripture Press of Chicago. I have many of their flannelgraph object lessons which have a Biblical approach and the aim of each is salvation through the blood. Hebrews 9: 22. For Sabbath school, Mil-

ton is in his fifth quarterly workbook which is patterned from our public school workbooks.

Another excellent study course is Gospel Light of Glendale, Calif. They print a closely graded study course from nursery to adult levels. The editors have previously been public school instructors, and know the psychological levels of all ages. Our Seventh Day Baptist Church in Riverside uses some of the material. If, while in high school, I had followed such a study course, I'm sure I would know better the Epistles of Paul which we are now teaching to our son, instead of trying, frantically, to keep a jump ahead of him.

Christian Youth

By MIZPAH S. GREENE

In many Churches, youth rallies have been held recently. These rallies were for young people from the seventh grade up. But boys and girls of all ages need to rally from day to day in Christian service. Every day belongs to youth, and tomorrow's world may well depend on today's youth — at study, at play, at prayer, and in true, loyal Christian service.

Fortunate is the Church that finds in its youth of all ages an ever-increasing blessing; that makes provision for study, worship, play, and service through its program of Christian education and fellowship; that encourages its youth to take part in Christian activities; that has older Christians who set examples of true Christianity, and encourage and help to bring about Christlikeness in the young people of all ages. That Church will always have faithful Christian leaders and a glorious Christian future.

Let no child think he is too young to be a true Christian in thought and word and deed. I know of at least one whole family who became faithful servants of Christ through the influence of the youngest member of the family, a child in the primary department of the Sabbath school.

To quote from 2 Chronicles 34: 1-3: "Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign . . . in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father."

Are we too far away from Church activities to give suggestions? Both of us feel definitely called of God for a purpose not yet clearly revealed. Both of us are attending Bible Institute, and availing ourselves of other opportunities to bring our "love gift" to Him whose we are and whom we serve. We are not "ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation." Romans 1: 16.

TIME now, ETERNITY with Him. My Jesus paid it all; ALL to Him I owe.

1046 W. Taylor Street,
Phoenix, Ariz.

Best of all, boys and girls, we are fortunate, not only that Jesus Christ, God's Son, came to dwell with us, but that He came as a little child. The cause of children and of the blessed relationships of the family were exalted on that first Christmas, when Jesus came. They have never been the same since the Christ child came.

"Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein," said Jesus when He had grown to maturity. And even from childhood He has shown us the way.

The coming of Jesus into the world plainly shows the relationship that God the Father wants each of us to have with Him. Whether we are young or old we are His children, and we need Him.

We can never be really happy or fully satisfied as we grow from childhood to old age unless we have gained the Father-and-son relationship that was made plain to us when God sent His Son as a little child. It is a wonderful privilege and God's will that we depend upon Him, receiving food, shelter, and all our blessings as gifts from His hand, following His standards by right living, trying to think His thoughts; in truth, being workers together with God.

Let us pray from true, loving hearts that God may strengthen in us the gift of love for all mankind, help us to put our good

thoughts into action, and our prayers into life.

WITH THEE

One hour with Thee is better far
Than years of sinful pleasure.
One look from Thine approving eye
Would give me joy I cannot measure.

One thought of Thee would fill my soul
With praise and glad thanksgiving,
For all my Saviour's pardoning grace,
My sinful heart forgiving.

As fall the sunbeams from the sky,
In golden splendor gleaming,
So may Thy love shine in our hearts,
With light and beauty beaming.

O guiding Star, come nearer still,
To fill life's path with brightness,
Till day by day our characters
Grow nearer to Thy likeness.

(Composed by Devillo E. Livermore, of blessed memory, a faithful Christian and a true friend to children.)

Andover, N. Y.

How to Find Friends

Being skimpy with those kind words
That are stored there in the mind,
Keeps that unsuspecting hoarder
From the friends he would like to find.
H. F. Hummel.

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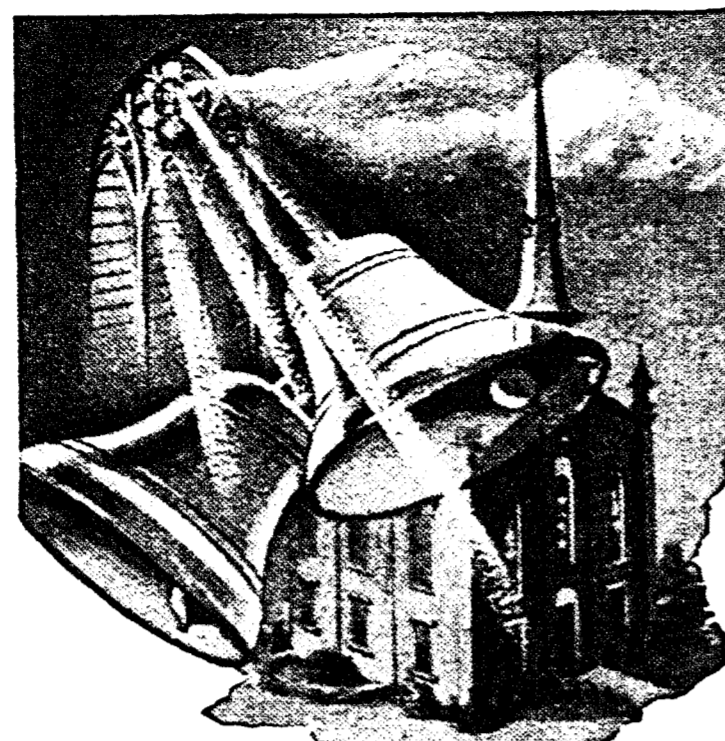
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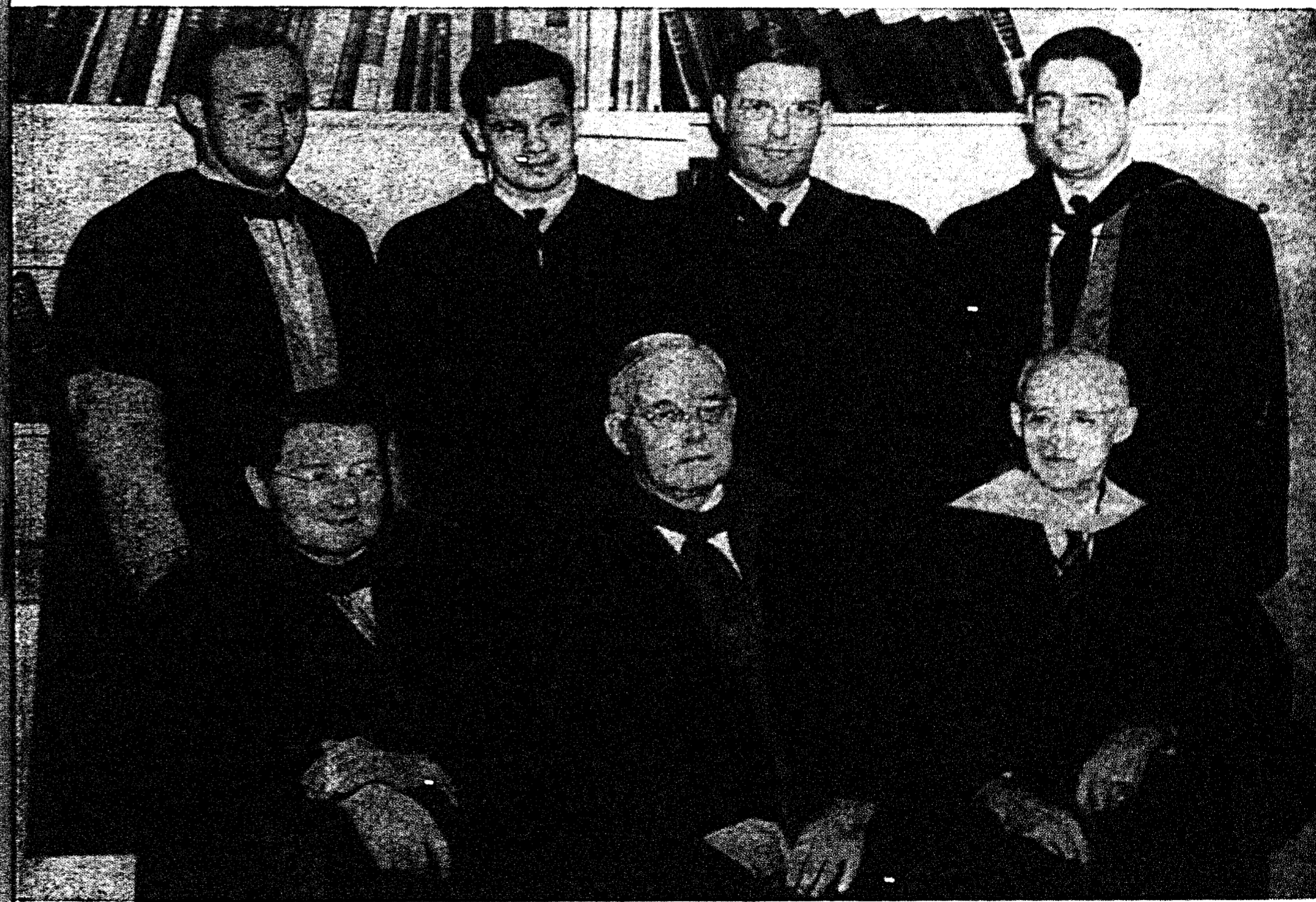
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